

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An auxiliary electric heater, ~~particularly as an auxiliary heating means~~ for automotive vehicles, comprising
a housing which is made open on ~~the elongate~~ longitudinal housing faces thereof,
and
a layered structure ~~including~~ consisting of
at least one PTC heating element,
a radiator element,
contact sheets for power supply, and
a resilient element, the layered structure being kept clamped in the housing by the resilient element,
wherein an opening is provided in a lateral face ~~by in~~ of the housing for inserting the resilient element.
2. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein a resilient channel is formed in the housing for receiving the resilient element.
3. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 1[,] further comprising positioning means for pre-fixing the elements of the heater in the housing.
4. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 3, wherein the positioning means ~~in the housing~~ simultaneously form a groove for guiding the resilient element during insertion.

5. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein the ~~elongate~~ longitudinal faces of the housing are mechanically reinforced by at least one transverse strut.
6. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 5, wherein the struts in the ~~elongate~~ longitudinal faces of the housing have the shape of a grid structure.
7. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 5, wherein the grid structure has at least one longitudinal strut in the area of the PTC heating element[s].
8. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein said housing is made from plastics.
9. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein the layered structure includes multiple PTC heating elements, and wherein the housing further comprises positioning means for keeping the PTC heating elements mutually spaced apart.
10. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein the housing comprises two half-shells.
11. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 10, wherein the half-shells of the housing can be put together.

12. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 11, further comprising locking pins or locking noses which, when the half-shells of the housing are put together, effect an interlocking of the two half-shells.
13. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 10, wherein the half-shells are configured such that they separate the housing approximately in the middle between the ~~elongate~~ longitudinal faces of the housing.
14. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 13, further comprising respectively opposite projections provided on ~~at~~ the separation line of the half-shells which will engage each other when the half-shells are assembled.
15. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein the resilient element ~~comprises~~ consists of a sheet member with resilient segments projecting therefrom.
16. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein the resilient element is configured such that it transmits the clamping forces essentially onto the reinforced longitudinal sides of the housing.
17. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 15, wherein the resilient element ~~comprises~~ consists of a sheet member with resilient segments projecting therefrom.
18. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 17, wherein each of the resilient segments extends into the edge portions of the longitudinal sides of the ~~sheet~~ resilient member.

19. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 18, wherein the ~~sheet~~resilient member is made integral with the resilient segments.
20. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 15, wherein the layered structure includes multiple PTC heating elements, and wherein at least one resilient segment ~~for generating clamping forces~~ is provided at each PTC heating element position for a frictional clamping action.
21. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 20, wherein at least two resilient segments are provided for each PTC heating element position.
22. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 1, further comprising at least one seal for sealing longitudinal struts relative to the PTC heating elements.
23. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 22, wherein the longitudinal faces of the housing are mechanically reinforced by transverse struts having the shape of a grid structure, and wherein the seal seals ~~at~~ the whole grid structure.
24. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 23, wherein the seal for a housing side is respectively made integral.
25. (Currently Amended) A housing for ~~an electric heater, particularly as an auxiliary heater~~heating means for automotive vehicles, the housing comprising:
a housing structure for receiving a layered structure ~~consisting of~~including at least one PTC heating element, a radiator element, contact sheets for power supply, and a resilient

element, wherein the housing structure ~~has~~ having a lateral opening for insertion of the resilient element.

26. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 25, wherein a resilient channel is formed in the housing structure for inserting the resilient element.

27. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 25, further comprising positioning means in the housing structure for pre-fixing the elements of the heater.

28. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 27, wherein the positioning means in the housing structure form a groove for guiding the resilient element at the same time.

29. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 25, wherein the housing structure ~~has the longitudinal elongate faces that of the housing~~ are mechanically reinforced by at least one transverse strut.

30. (Currently Amended) The housing according to claim 29, wherein the struts in the ~~elongate longitudinal~~ faces of the housing structure ~~having~~ have an open configuration and are in the form of a grid structure.

31. (Original) The housing according to claim 25, wherein the housing is made from plastics.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) An auxiliary electric heater for an automotive vehicle, the electric heater comprising:

~~an open housing having open longitudinal elongate housing faces; and~~

a layered structure including of at least one PTC heating element, a radiator element, contact sheets for power supply, and a resilient element, the layered structure being clamped in the housing by the resilient element, wherein an opening is provided in a laterally in face of the housing for inserting the resilient element.

34. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein a resilient channel is formed in the housing for receiving the resilient element.
35. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 33, further comprising positioning means for pre-fixing the elements of the heater in the housing.
36. (Currently Amended) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein the elongate longitudinal faces of the housing are mechanically reinforced by at least one transverse strut.
37. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein the housing comprises positioning means for keeping the PTC heating elements mutually spaced apart.
38. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein the housing comprises two half-shells.
39. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein the resilient element comprises a sheet member with resilient segments projecting therefrom.
40. (Original) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein the resilient element is configured such that it transmits the clamping forces essentially onto reinforced longitudinal sides of the housing.

41. (Currently Amended) ~~The electric heater according to claim 40,~~ An auxiliary electric heater for an automotive vehicle, the electric heater comprising:
a housing having open longitudinal faces; and
a layered structure including of at least one PTC heating element, a radiator element, contact sheets for power supply, and a resilient element, the layered structure being clamped in the housing by the resilient element, wherein an opening is provided in a lateral face of the housing for inserting the resilient element, wherein the resilient element is configured such that it transmits the clamping forces essentially onto reinforced longitudinal sides of the housing, and wherein the sides of the housing are reinforced by longitudinal struts, and further comprising at least one seal for sealing the longitudinal struts relative to the PTC heating elements.
42. (Canceled)
43. (New) The electric heater according to claim 1, wherein the opening is fully enclosed about an entire perimeter thereof.
44. (New) The housing according to claim 25, wherein the opening is fully enclosed about an entire perimeter thereof.
45. (New) The electric heater according to claim 33, wherein the opening is fully enclosed about an entire perimeter thereof.